

Office of the General Manager

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12 November 2025

Gracie Jackle
Energy Assessment
NSW Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Gracie,

SUBJECT: HAMPTON PARK SOLAR FARM (SSD-97547209) ADVICE ON DRAFT SEARs

Thank you for providing the Draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and Scoping Report for the proposed Hampton Park Solar Farm project (SSD-97547209). While the project is located outside of the Mid-Western Regional Local Government Area (LGA), Council notes its proximity to the Mid-Western boundary and the likelihood of shared regional impacts and infrastructure use within the broader Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

Upon review, the Mid-Western Regional Council (Council) would like to offer the following feedback:

Regional and cumulative impacts

Council continues to emphasise the need for coordinated assessment of cumulative impacts across all large-scale renewable energy and associated infrastructure projects within the Central-West Orana REZ.

Specific cumulative impacts requiring explicit assessment include:

- **Workforce accommodation demand** across regional towns such as Wellington, Mudgee, Gulgong, Dunedoo and Dubbo, including availability of housing, rental affordability and pressure on community services.
- **Road network impacts**, including the condition and capacity of local and regional roads connecting to the Golden Highway, Castlereagh Highway and other local roads, given shared haulage and workforce transport routes.

- **Water availability and supply**, particularly under drought conditions, as multiple REZ projects propose construction-phase water extraction and cartage from shared sources.
- **Emergency management, medical and policing services**, which are limited across the region and will be cumulatively affected by multiple concurrent workforces.
- **Visual and landscape character** impacts from multiple renewable projects, and the importance of retaining rural scenic values on key tourist routes.

Transport Management Plan

Mid-Western Regional Council strongly emphasises the importance of developing and finalising a comprehensive Transport Management Plan (TMP) at the early stages of the project. The TMP is essential to address traffic impacts during the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases. Specific considerations should include:

- Detailed assessment of proposed transport routes.
- Identification and completion of required road upgrades.
- Evaluation of cumulative impacts, particularly given the number of renewable energy projects within the Mid-Western Region.
- Management of heavy and over-dimensional vehicle (OSOM) movements, ensuring minimal disruption to local and regional road networks.

Consultation with Mid-Western Regional Council

If the proposed transport route is anticipated to impact the Mid-Western Region, Council requests early and proactive consultation by the proponent. This engagement is critical to ensure:

- Regional infrastructure impacts are adequately identified and managed.
- Road safety concerns are thoroughly addressed.
- Potential effects on community wellbeing are mitigated effectively.

Furthermore, Mid-Western Regional Council does not support the transportation of large-scale OSOM vehicles through the towns of Gulgong or Mudgee. The potential disruptions and impacts on the local road network and community safety must be avoided.

Council looks forward to further consultation and collaboration to ensure that all aspects of the project are aligned with regional planning objectives and community needs.

Should you require further clarification or wish to discuss this matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact Council on (02) 6378 2850.

Yours sincerely,



BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER